

Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)



There are a total of 19 counties across the state of Colorado that have WRP projects in effect. These projects exist to attract wildlife and improve water quality. It also addresses wetland, soil and other related natural resource concerns on private lands.

The Program

The **Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)** is a voluntary land-retirement program that provides technical and financial assistance to eligible landowners to address wetland, wildlife habitat, soil, water, and related natural resource concerns on private lands.

The Partnership

The program provides landowners and Tribes an opportunity to receive financial incentives to restore and enhance wetlands in exchange for retiring this land from agriculture.

Landowners and Tribes may file an application for a conservation easement or a cost-share restoration agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture to restore and protect wetlands.

The Assistance

Participants voluntarily limit future use of the land, but retain private ownership. WRP offers landowners three enrollment options:

- ✓ Permanent Easement
- ✓ 30-year Easement
- ✓ Restoration Cost-Share Agreement

In FY 2005 Colorado purchased...

...ten perpetual easements totaling \$3,041,880 that covered 2,278.84 acres of privately-owned lands.

NRCS currently has \$4,483,489 on the waiting list to fund an additional six applications totaling 3,141 acres of privately-owned lands.

As a national agency, NRCS has primary administrative responsibility and authority to develop cooperative agreements with outside conservation groups who can assist with creating or restoring wetlands. NRCS can also delegate its authority of monitoring the enforcement of easements to states or other Federal agencies.

